

Message Text

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USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

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UNCLAS STUTTGART 1440

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS GW

SUBJ: DEFENSE ATTORNEYS SLOW DOWN BAADER-MEINHOF WRAP-UP

REF: STUTTGART 1355 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: DEFENSE TACTIC OF CALLING ADDITIONAL WITNESSES HAS MARKETEDLY SLOWED PACE OF THE BAADER-MEINHOF TRIAL FINAL STAGES. END OF WITNESSES NOT YET IN SIGHT. STRATEGY AIMED AT DESTROYING CREDIBILITY OF "CROWN WITNESSES" MUELLER AND HOF. BAADER AGAIN IN COURT. LOCAL AUTHORITIES PATIENT BUT WARY. END SUMMARY.

2. DEFENSE ATTORNEYS IN STUTTGART BAADER-MEINHOF TRIAL HAVE CONSIDERABLY SLOWED PROGRESS TOWARD EARLY CONCLUSION BY CALLING ADDITIONAL WITNESSES. CURRENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT DEFENSE HAS NOT YET EXHAUSTED THE LIST OF THOSE IT IS PREPARED TO CALL TO THE WITNESS STAND.

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3. RECENTLY EXTRADITED ROLF POHLE'S BRIEF APPEARANCE GAVE HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTACK PROSECUTION AND COURT-APPOINTED ATTORNEYS AND TO DEMONSTRATE SOLIDARITY WITH BAADER-MEINHOF STUTTGART PRISONERS. DEFENSE ALSO SEEKING TESTIMONY FROM ANARCHIST CARMEN ROLL, NOW LIVING IN ROME, AND WANTS A REAPPEARANCE OF ANARCHIST KLAUS JUENSCHKE, NOW ON TRIAL IN KAISERSLAUTERN, AND HAS MADE ATTEMPTS TO GET TESTIMONY OF OTHERS.

4. MAIN DEFENSE OBJECTIVE IS TO DESTROY CREDIBILITY OF "CROWN WITNESSES" MUELLER AND HOFF. PART OF THIS STRATEGY INCLUDED CALLING TO THE STAND FEDERAL ATTORNEY GENERAL BUBACK WHO HAD TO GET SPECIAL PERMISSION FROM FEDERAL MINISTER OF JUSTICE VOGEL TO TESTIFY. BUBACK DENIED THAT ANY KINDS OF PROMISES HAD BEEN MADE TO EITHER MUELLER OR HOFF IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR TESTIMONY.

5. ANDREAS BAADER MADE HIS FIRST SIGNIFICANT COURT APPEARANCE SINCE ULRIKE MEINHOF'S SUICIDE IN MAY ON THE DAY OF BUBACK'S TESTIMONY AND USED THE OCCASION TO SHARPLY ATTACK BUBACK AND PROSECUTION STRATEGY. BAADER WAS WEARING A BANDAGE AND APPARENTLY HAD BEEN EXAMINED FOR SUSPECTED CANCER OF THE LARYNX. RESULTS NEGATIVE.

6. COMMENT: LOCAL AUTHORITIES SEEM NEITHER SURPRISED NOR ARLARMED AT THE LATEST TURN OF EVENTS DELAYING CONCLUSION OF TRIAL WHICH IS NOW NEARING THE START OF THE 18TH MONTH. MOST LOCAL OBSERVERS HAD ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT DEFENSE WOULD NOT EASILY AND QUICKLY GIVE UP THE FIGHT AND ARE NO LONGER MAKING PREDICTIONS AS TO WHEN THE TRIAL WILL END. WHILE COURTROOM MANEUVERING CONTINUES, POLICE DO NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY OF SOME DRAMATIC LAST-DITCH EFFORT TO AGAIN PUT BAADER-MEINHOF TRIAL ON CENTER STAGE. ALTHOUGH NOT DIRECTLY LINKED, AT LEAST IN PUBLIC, TO LENGTH OF BAADER-MEINHOF TRIAL PROCESS, BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG JUSTICE MINISTER BENDER IS FOCUSING PUBLIC ATTENTION ON WAYS TO STREAMLINE JUDICIAL SYSTEM, MAKING POSSIBLE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, SPEEDIER VERDICTS IN COURT CASES. MURPHY

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